

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Introduction

By this paper, claims 1-2, and 12-15 are cancelled. Claims 3-11 and 16-17 are amended. Claims 3-11 and 16-20 remain pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 4, 7-9, 11 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,083,665 (*Pihl*). The Office Action rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Pihl* in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,532,323 (*Miller*) or U.S. Patent No. 5,943,749 (*Swank*). Applicant does not admit that the claims are properly rejected under the appropriate standards of §§ 102, 103 and reserves the right to challenge these rejections at a later time.

In view of the amendments discussed below, however, these rejections are now moot and the claims are allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 5, 6, and 17-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks Examiner for the careful review and indication of allowability of claims 3, 5, 6, and 17-20.

By this paper, Applicant has Amended claims 3, 5, 6, and 17 to be allowable as indicated by the Examiner. The remaining dependent claims have been amended to provide proper dependence.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested. In the event of any question, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate a telephone conversation with the undersigned.

Dated this 9th day of July, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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